

THE IOWA POLL

SELZER & COMPANY
809 Iowa adults
Margin of error: ± 3.4 percentage points

Study #2076
June 2-5, 2013
Weighted by age and sex

In general, do you think things in the nation are headed in the right direction, or have they gotten off on the wrong track?

| Right direction | Wrong track | Not sure |
|--------------------|----------------|-------------|
| 30 | 60 | 10 |

What about here in Iowa? Do you think things in the state are headed in the right direction, or have they gotten off on the wrong track?

| Right direction | Wrong track | Not sure |
|--------------------|----------------|-------------|
| 56 | 34 | 10 |

I'm going to mention some elected officials. For each, please tell me if you approve or disapprove of the way each is handling his job. **(Rotate list.)**

| | Approve | Disapprove | Not Sure |
|--------------------------------|---------|------------|-------------|
| Terry Branstad as governor | 58 | 32 | 10 |
| Tom Harkin as U.S. Senator | 52 | 31 | 17 |
| Chuck Grassley as U.S. Senator | 60 | 27 | 13 |

Do you approve or disapprove of the job Barack Obama is doing as president?
(Follow with:) Do you approve or disapprove of the job he is doing: **(Rotate list after his job as president.)**

| | Approve | Disapprove | Not Sure |
|--|---------|------------|-------------|
| With his job as president | 41 | 54 | 5 |
| With the economy | 38 | 58 | 4 |
| With the budget deficit | 29 | 64 | 7 |
| With managing relationships with the U.S. Congress | 32 | 57 | 11 |

Now, I'm going to mention some people who are being talked about as possible candidates for governor in 2014. For each, please tell me if your feelings are very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly unfavorable, or very unfavorable. If you don't know enough to answer, just say so. **(Record "don't know" as "not sure." Rotate list.)**

| | Very Favorable | Mostly Favorable | Mostly Unfavorable | Very Unfavorable | Not Sure |
|---|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| Terry Branstad, governor of Iowa | 20 | 34 | 19 | 17 | 10 |
| Jack Hatch, a state senator | 2 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 82 |
| Tom Vilsack, former governor of Iowa | 17 | 31 | 19 | 15 | 18 |
| Chet Culver, former governor of Iowa | 11 | 23 | 21 | 20 | 25 |
| Tyler Olson, a state representative and chair of the Iowa Democratic Party | 3 | 10 | 9 | 6 | 72 |

Now, I'm going to mention some people considering running for Tom Harkin's U.S. Senate seat. For each, please tell me if your feelings are very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly unfavorable, or very unfavorable. If you don't know enough to answer, just say so. **(Record "don't know" as "not sure." Rotate list.)**

| | Very Favorable | Mostly Favorable | Mostly Unfavorable | Very Unfavorable | Not Sure |
|--|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| David Young, an aide to Senator Grassley | 4 | 13 | 5 | 4 | 74 |
| Joni Ernst, a state senator | 1 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 88 |
| Matt Whitaker, a former U.S. attorney | 2 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 82 |
| Bruce Braley, U.S. Congressman | 9 | 20 | 8 | 6 | 57 |

How likely is it you will vote in the 2014 general election for governor, U.S. senator and other offices—will you definitely vote, probably vote, might or might not vote, or probably not vote?

- 69 Definitely vote
- 16 Probably vote
- 7 Might or might not vote
- 7 Probably not vote
- 1 Refused/not sure

If the election for Iowa governor were held today, and the candidates were [TERRY BRANSTAD FOR THE REPUBLICANS/JACK HATCH FOR THE DEMOCRATS], for whom would you vote—[BRANSTAD OR HATCH] or for someone else? **(Rotate candidate names. Based on likely voters in the 2014 general election; n=591. Margin of error: ± 4.0 percentage points.)**

- 55 Terry Branstad
- 27 Jack Hatch
- 9 Someone else
- Would not vote (VOL)
- 9 Not sure

I'd like to ask about some actions the Iowa legislature took this year. First, it passed a bill that would increase teachers' starting salary and pay more to experienced teachers who take on leadership roles. Do you expect these changes to improve student achievement in Iowa a lot, a little, or will they likely not make a difference?

- 23 Improve a lot
- 38 Improve a little
- 35 Not make a difference
- 4 Not sure

Second, the legislature passed a tax package that would lower taxes for commercial properties and cap future increases at three percent for residential and agricultural properties. It would also expand tax credits for low-income workers and give rebates of up to \$60 a year on state income-tax bills. State government will give reimbursement to local governments for most, but not all, of their lost revenue. For each of the following groups, please tell me if you think they came out of this agreement as more of a winner or more of a loser. **(Rotate list, but D must always be last.)**

| | Winner | Loser | Not Sure |
|------------------------------------|--------|-------|-------------|
| Businesses that own property | 64 | 18 | 18 |
| Cities and other local governments | 49 | 29 | 22 |
| The overall state economy | 49 | 32 | 19 |
| You personally | 39 | 37 | 24 |

During the last legislative session, which of the following do you think did the best work on behalf of all Iowans?
(Read list. Rotate.)

- 18 The Democrats in the legislature
- 14 The Republicans in the legislature
- 13 Governor Branstad
- 40 All equally
- 15 Not sure

2013 is the fifth anniversary of the 2008 floods in many Iowa communities, including Cedar Rapids and Iowa City. Do you think lessons have been learned and actions taken that will prevent such major damage to cities from floods, or do you expect to see frequent repeats of these floods with extensive damage?

- 43 Lessons learned and actions taken
- 45 Expect frequent repeats with extensive damage
- 12 Not sure

On another topic, do you think children in Iowa are more safe or less safe from the threat of abduction than they were when you were young?

- 25 More safe
- 68 Less safe
- 7 Not sure

I'm going to mention some things that have been in the news lately. For each, I'd like you to tell me if this is a major concern for you, a minor concern, or if you think the issue has been overblown. (Rotate list.)

| | Major Concern | Minor Concern | Overblown | Not Sure |
|---|------------------|------------------|-----------|-------------|
| The controversy surrounding talking points after the attack on a U.S. consulate in Benghazi in which four Americans were killed | 52 | 16 | 25 | 7 |
| The controversy about the IRS giving extra scrutiny to conservative groups applying for nonprofit status | 45 | 22 | 24 | 9 |
| The controversy about the Justice Department looking at phone records for reporters at the Associated Press and Fox News | 37 | 25 | 29 | 9 |

About the poll

The Iowa Poll, conducted Jun. 2-5 for The Des Moines Register by Selzer & Co. of Des Moines, is based on interviews with 809 Iowans ages 18 or older. Interviewers contacted households with randomly selected landline and cell phone numbers. Responses were adjusted by age and sex to reflect the general population based on recent Census data.

Questions based on the sample of 809 Iowa adults have a maximum margin of error of plus or minus 3.4 percentage points. This means that if this survey were repeated using the same questions and the same methodology, 19 times out of 20, the findings would not vary from the percentages shown here by more than plus or minus 3.4 percentage points. Results based on smaller samples of respondents—such as by gender or age—have a larger margin of error. Results based on a subset of 591 likely voters in the 2014 general election have a margin of error of plus or minus 4.0 percentage points.

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